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**SEP 08 2008**

**PATENT  
P57015**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of:

SU-JIN HAN et al.

Serial No.: 10/791,854      Examiner: TURNER, Katherine Ann.

Filed: 4 March 2004      Art Unit: 1795

For: SECONDARY BATTERY

**PETITION UNDER 37 CFR §1.144**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Applicant respectfully petition under 37 CFR §1.144 from a finality of a requirement for restriction initially imposed under 37 CFR §1.142 in Paper No. 20071219 mailed on the 11<sup>th</sup> of February 2008, and made final in Paper No. 20080620 mailed on the 8<sup>th</sup> of July 2008.

**CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE  
TRANSMISSION**

I hereby certify that, on September 8, 2008, this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office. (Facsimile No. 571-273-8300)

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for

Robert E. Bushnell  
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**STATEMENT OF FACTS**

1. On 11 February 2008, the Examiner in paper No. 20071219, imposed a restriction request, requiring Applicant to respectively elect one specie within each of Groups I, II and III;
  
2. On 11 March 2008, Applicant filed an Amendment and Response under 37 C.F.R. §1.143, provisionally electing species A1 of Group I, covering claims 2 through 13, 15 through 26 and 28 through 37;
  
3. On 23 April 2008, the Examiner imposed a telephone restriction, requiring Applicant to respectively elect one specie whin each of Groups II and III;
  
4. On 25 April 2008, Applicant filed an Amendment and Response under 37 C.F.R. §1.143, provisionally electing species B1 of Group II covering claims 8, 23 and 35, species C2 of Group III covering claims 12 through 14; and
  
5. On 8 July 2008, a non-final Office action was mailed (No. 20080620) examining only claims 1, 2, 4-8, 12-17, 19-23, 26-35 and drawn to the elected species A1 of Group I, species B1 of Group II and species C2 of Group III. In Paper No. 20080620, the Examiner acknowledged Applicant's 11 March 2008 and 25 April 2008 traversals filed under 37 C.F.R. §1.143, but made final the telephone restriction and the

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restriction request of 11 February 2008. The Examiner in No. 20080620 asserted that the claims represented by each species were incorrectly established by the Examiner in paper No.20071219, and each species however were correctly established by reciting the claim language. Paper No. 20080620 contained no explanation for this statement, and did not explain the meaning of the statement “the claims represented by each species were incorrectly established by the Examiner.”

6. In paper No. 20080620, the Examiner wrote that paper No. 20080620 finalized (i) the telephone restriction and (ii) the restriction request of 11 February 2008 by correctly establishing species A1 of Group I covering claims 2, 17, 29 and 30.
7. Neither paper No.20071219 nor paper No. 20080620 explained the significance of *correctly establishing each species*, and Applicant’s undersigned attorney has been unable to find an explanation of *correctly establishing each species* in Chapter 800 of the *Manual of Patent Examining Procedure*, 8<sup>th</sup> Edition, Revision 6.

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P57016**REMARKS**

In Paper No. 20080620, the Examiner maintained the restriction requirement previously imposed in this application. The requirement for restriction was not withdrawn, but was instead made final in paper No. 20080620.

Applicant respectfully submits that the administrative record of this prosecution history fails to demonstrate that there is a *serious* burden upon the Examiner in searching species A1 and A2 of Group I, species B1 and B2 of Group II and species C1 and C2 of Group III. Moreover, the administrative record of this prosecution history establishes that Applicant's invention teaches but a single invention.

The applicant respectfully submits that a restriction requirement should not be imposed in this application for the reasons previously stated in the Amendment filed on 11 March 2008 and 25 April 2008, which are incorporated herein by reference thereto.

Restriction to one of the following inventions was required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

**Species Group I**

Species A1, appears to be claims 2,17,29, and 30

Species A2, appears to be claims 3, and 18

**Species Group II**

Species B1, appears to be claims 8, 23, and 35

Species B2, appears to be claims 9-10, 24-25, and 36-37

**Species Group III**

Species C1, appears to be claim 11

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Species C2, appears to be claims 12-14

Although Applicant has provisionally elected Species A1, B1 and C2, the Examiner's requirement of an election of species imposed under 37 CFR §1.146 is improper because the subject matter of the six Species overlap and must be simultaneously examined in compliance with 37 CFR §1.104(a). In addition, the mandatory fields of search for the six embodiments are coextensive. Finally, it appears that the restriction requirement is being imposed merely for administrative convenience, and such a basis for imposition of a restriction requirement has been prohibited in previous decisions of the Commissioner.

The Examiner stated that the embodiments of Species A1-A2, Species B1-B2 and Species C1-C2 are patentably distinct species. This restriction is improper and contrary to Office policy; the basis for Applicant's traverse is, as follows.

Species A1-A2, Species B1-B2 and Species C1-C2 are related embodiments of a single invention. More specifically, Species A1-A2 and Species B1-B2 may be four embodiments of claim 1. The difference of the area of the two openings is the enlarged entrance for the electrolytic solution inlet. The applicant's electrolytic solution inlet of the secondary battery defined by claim 1 may have a structure as shown in FIG. 3 (defined by claim 2), a structure as shown in FIG. 4 (defined by claim 3), a structure as shown in FIG. 5 (defined by claim 8) or a structure as shown in FIG. 6 (defined by claim 9). There is no evidence in the administrative record that would support an inference that the six (6) species identified by paper No. 20080620, Species A1-A2, Species B1-B2 and Species C1-C2, are either independent or distinct. Moreover, the administrative record is devoid of an identification of Applicant's disclosure of six (6) independent and distinct species, that is, Species

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A1-A2, Species B1-B2 and Species C1-C2. The Examiner's assertion that these six (6) species have acquired separate status in the art is unsupported by an identification in the administrative record, of separate classifications of each of these six species. Instead, paper No. 20080620 is focusing upon differences in the language of Applicant's pending claims, and endeavoring to divine a plethora of species from the differences between the language of those claims; this does not meet the threshold requirement of 37 CFR §1.146 that one or more patentably distinct species be present. Furthermore, this repetition of imposition of three distinct requirements is, in view of the nature of the above-captioned application, unnecessary and contributes nothing to a speedy conclusion of this compacted prosecution.

The fact that the Examiner has examined the genus claim 1 on the merits in paper No. 20080620, proves that the Examiner has performed a successful searching without any burden. In other words, in order to determine the patentability of the genus claim 1, the Examiner should have simultaneously examined the secondary batteries which have different structures of electrolytic solution inlets. Therefore, there is no serious burden upon the Examiner in searching Species A1-A2 and Species B1-B2.

Species C1-C2 define the relative positions of the second electrode tab, the terminal pin and the electrolytic solution inlet. It could be expected that during the Examiner examining the provisionally elected Species C2, the Examiner has examined the existing relative positions between these three components in the art. In other words, in order to determine claim 12 through 14 (the provisionally elected Species C2), the Examiner has simultaneously examined several secondary batteries which may have different relative positions between the second electrode tab, the terminal

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pin and the electrolytic solution inlet. Therefore, there is no serious burden upon the Examiner in searching Species C1-C2.

Therefore, there is no serious burden upon the Examiner in searching Species A1-A2, Species B1-B2 and Species C1-C2.

As specifically stated in MPEP § 803, the Examiner must show that the (A) The inventions must be independent (see MPEP § 802.01, § 806.04, § 808.01) or distinct as claimed (see MPEP § 806.05 - § 806.05(i)); and (B) There must be a serious burden on the examiner if restriction is required (see MPEP § 803.02, § 806.04(a) - § 806.04(i), § 808.01(a), and § 808.02). The Examiner must prove there is a serious burden on the Examiner. It is respectfully submitted that there would not be a serious burden upon the Examiner in searching the invention of Species A1-A2, Species B1-B2 and Species C1-C2.

Moreover, the Examiner fails to either aver the existence of a serious burden, or even that Applicant's are classified in different subclasses, or the fields of mandatory search are different. In point of fact, the Examiner fails to identify any classification for the individual species. There is therefore, on the record of this prosecution history, neither factual evidence which would support a naked allegation of any reason for this requirement under 37 CFR § 1.146, nor factual basis for an evidentiary inference that would justify the imposition of this requirement. In short, this imposition of a requirement for an election of species merely delays a timely completion of the examination without concomitant benefit to the Applicant. Its withdrawal is respectfully requested. Such action is respectfully urged.

In conclusion, Applicant objects to and traverses the election requirement on the grounds that

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the subject matter of the six species overlap. In addition, the mandatory fields of search for the six embodiments are coextensive. Furthermore, the Examiner has successfully searched the six embodiments during the examination of genus claim 1 and provisionally elected Species C2 without any burden. Finally, it appears that the election requirement is being imposed merely for administrative convenience and such a basis for imposition of such a requirement has been prohibited in previous decisions of the Commissioner.

Applicant respectfully traversed the final restriction requirement imposed in paper No.20080324. The applicant objected to and traversed the restriction requirement on the grounds that the restriction requirement appears to have been imposed merely for administrative convenience, and such a basis for imposition of a restriction requirement has been prohibited in previous decisions of the Commissioner.

Firstly, the Examiner has failed to show any type of burden, much less a serious burden, in the absence of a restriction requirement. In particular, not only has the Examiner failed to show that the search would impose a burden, but also the Examiner has failed to show that any burden would rise to the level of a serious burden. As stipulated in MPEP §803, if the search can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine the application on the merits, even if there are separate and distinct inventions. The Examiner has not alleged any serious burden in the restriction request under 37 CFR §1.142, and thus the Examiner must examine the entire application. Moreover, because no burden was shown, if the restriction is not withdrawn in the next Office action, the

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restriction requirement cannot be made final according to MPEP § 706.07.

**Secondly**, the Examiner on page 3 of paper No. 20080620, states that “there is serious burden upon the Examiner in searching the invention, because these is a different field of search for the species.” The applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner assertion because the fact that the Examiner has examined the genus claim 1 on the merits in paper No. 20080620 proves that the Examiner has performed a search without any burden. In other words, in order to determine the patentability of claim 1 and the provisionally elected Species C2, the Examiner has simultaneously examined several different electrolytic solution inlets of the secondary batteries which may have different structures. Therefore, there is no serious burden upon the Examiner in searching the invention.

As discussed above, Species A1-A2, B1-B2 and C1-C2 are six embodiments of claim 1 and have firm relationships between each other and are not distinct inventions. Therefore, the Examiner “must discuss such relationships and provides reasons advanced leading to the conclusion that the disclosed relation does not prevent restriction, in order to establish the propriety of restriction”. See MPEP 808.01(a). The Examiner in the preceding office actions failed to mention or discuss such relationships. Therefore, the Examiner is respectfully requested to be noted that Species A1-A2, B1-B2 and C1-C2 are related and are not distinct inventions.

**Thirdly**, MPEP §806.03 states that:

“Where the claims of an application define the same essential characteristics of a *single* disclosed embodiment of an invention, restriction therebetween should never be required. This is because the claims are but different definitions of the same disclosed subject matter, varying in breadth or scope of definition” (emphasis

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supplied).

Why, then has this prohibition been violated in the above-captioned application where a single embodiment has been disclosed? That fact that Applicant's claims are very broad in scope, and cover a plethora of implementations of the principles of Applicant's inventions, is not a basis for violating this prohibition against restriction. Withdrawal of this requirement is therefore respectfully urged.

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P57016**CONCLUSION**

The fact that Species A1-A2 of Group I, B1-B2 of Group II and C1-C2 of Group III of pending claims are identified by the Examiner, does not create an evidentiary inference that the pending claims define three distinct inventions which have attained separate status in the art. Rather, these six Species are six different embodiments of a single invention and these embodiments should be included in the mandatory field of search of Applicant's single invention. It is rare the a single claim may be thorough searched within a single subclass.

The obsession of the Examining staff with the possibility that the pending claims may be directed to different species falling into different field of search, may be a basis which mandates a finding of a requirement of serious burden upon the Examiner in searching the different species from the groups, is a cause for concern because the Examiner has conducted an successful searching during the examination of the genus claim 1 and the provisionally elected Species C2, as was demonstrated by the Examiner's examinations as stated in Paper No. 20080620.

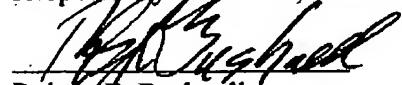
Withdrawal of this requirement is thus respectfully urged.

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P57016**RELIEF REQUESTED**

Accordingly, the Commissioner is respectfully requested to:

- A. Insist that the restriction requirement of Paper No. 20080324 be withdrawn;
- B. Examine all of Applicant's claims on the merits without further undue process; and
- C. Grant such other and further relief as justice may require.

Respectfully submitted,



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